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January 1997



FIRST CLASS MAIL

Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 16521
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80935

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BEAT



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*This Officer/Director is completing the second year of the two-year term to which they were elected.

The Ø-Beat is published monthly in the interest of the members of the Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association, Inc., PO Box 16521, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80935. For membership and subscription information see the last page of this publication. Monthly advertising rates: Full page, \$48; Half page, \$24; Quarter page, \$12; Business card, \$6. These rates are billed quarterly. Send your ad requests and payments to: PPRAA, PO Box 16521, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80935.

Check out the PPRAA page on the World Wide Web! Go to: <http://rainbow.rmii.com/~mugele/ppraa/>

Deadline for submission of articles or advertisements is the 20th of each month. Submissions are accepted in any form. Articles should be sent directly to the Ø-Beat Editor (email to kdøju@juno.com is preferred.) Permission is granted to reprint articles provided credit is given to both the author and this publication.

License Exams

License examinations sponsored by the Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association are held on the 2nd Saturday of February, April, June, August, October, and December.

Testing takes place at 9 A.M. at:

Denver Technical College
225 South Union
Colorado Springs

Everyone is seated on a walk-in basis. Those wishing to take an exam should bring the following items:

1. \$6.05 (preferably a check/money order made out to ARRL/VEC) for any exam other than element 1A or 2.
2. Picture identification.
3. A copy of your current amateur radio license, and/or a copy of any examination credit you have, as well as the signed original. We keep the copies.
4. A pen, pencils, and a calculator if you need one.

If you have any questions, call Erik Mugele, KGØXE at 596-5345. Please do not call Denver Technical College.

Committee Chairpersons/Contacts

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ARES Liaison	Mike Stansberry	KØTER	636-1290
CCARC Liaison			
RACES Liaison	Larry Dunn	N9HSW	481-0369

Reminder — General Membership Meeting

The next General Membership Meeting of the Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association will be on the second Wednesday of this month at the Disabled American Veterans Hall, 6880 Palmer Park Blvd. The meeting will start at 7 PM.

Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes Nov 18, 1996

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Jeff Boyes resident.

Old Business:

Rob Roller discussed the club budget. He is currently putting all of the clubs finances into Quicken. When he gets about 2 years worth into the program, he will try to come up with a budget.

Since the Christmas Party is the 11th of December, and we need the numbers for the DAV prior to the next Zero Beat being published, Renay has designed a Flyer to mail to club members. Rob agreed to send E-Mail copies to those members on E-Mail. Postage costs for mailing the flyer was approved as was \$25.00 for decorations. Les is donating an artificial tree to be used.

New Business:

Mike Stansberry K0TER has requested that the club provide \$12.80 for postage to be used to send Club QSL cards for Field Day. Approved.

Renay Boyes has volunteered to become the Clubs Activity Chairperson.

We still need an individual to head the Auditing Committee.

Rob Roller has mailed the clubs quarterly financial report to the state. He also reported that the

check for Newline is prepared and ready to be mailed.

Christmas Party Door Prize, It was decided to use the donated KW2400 HT as a door prize. Some suggestions were made as to other items. Aaron will pick up some additional prizes.

The Hammy award will be presented to a winner in December. The board of directors will then determine the annual winner (one of the years 12). In January a new Hammy will be presented to an new winner.

Some upcoming programs are

December	Christmas Party
January	Homebrew

Next months board meeting will take place at Jeff Boyes home on Sunday Dec 15th at 6:00pm. The January meeting will be at Rob Roller's home and February will find the meeting at Greg Tarca.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48pm.

Respectively submitted by:

Bob Antion, Club Secretary

Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes Dec 15, 1996.

The meeting was called to order at 6:06pm by Jeff Boyes (N0JLH) PPRAA President.

Carlos Caro (KB0REI) was present and filling in for Dennis Major

(KB0SXC) who had other commitments.

Old Business:

Jeff Boyes indicated that he had sent an e-mail to update the Colorado Amateur Radio web page, but it had not yet been updated.

Club Trailer- The club trailer needs a lot of work. Jeff was going to contact Harry (N0SFP) and request that he prepare a report on the trailer status and needed repairs. We need to determine the repair costs and then determine if it would be cost effective to repair it.

Raffle Class. Rob Roller (WB7WHT), Carlos and Dennis took the class and now are licensed by the state to conduct raffles. Rob will be the raffle manager for the Hamfest.

Rob discussed the club budget. He currently has gotten all of 1996s records into Quicken. He has most of 1995 with the exception of all of the Hamfest items. When he gets about 2 years worth into the program, he will try to come up with a budget. His estimated completion for a draft budget is the January Board meeting.

The HT (KW2400) which was going to be given away at the Christmas Party as a door prize has been damaged. It overheated and the battery charging circuit was damaged. No charger or Manual are present. It was recommended that the item be offered for sale at the Hamfest. Motion Carried.

New Business:

The Hammy award for December was presented by Greg Tarca (WA2OOD) to Bob Stryker. The annual winner was determined. In January Bob Stryker will present a new Hammy to an new winner. Greg will contact Ken (N0NKP) about getting the new Hammy started.

Hamfest: Carlos indicated that he has looked at two locations in the Springs for possible sites. They are Coronado and Doherty High Schools. Both locations meet our requirements however, only Doherty is available on the 17th of May. Both schools are available on the 31st. He indicated that he had researched the fairgrounds and there were no classroom facilities or restrooms. We would have to rent Port-A-Potties to provide adequate sanitary facilities. Carlos is suggesting more prizes, but less expensive ones. This should promote interest and hopefully boost ticket sales. Carlos will present a prize packages and times/dates at the General membership meeting for membership discussion and approval. The next meeting of the Hamfest Committee will be on Jan 11th at the Colorado Springs Police Substation, Falcon Division located on Goddard Street in northern Colorado Springs near the Chapel Hill Mall. All are invited and those who are able to volunteer to help Carlos are especially needed. A Hamfest is no small feat to organize and we need your support.

Home-brew night prizes and categories were talked about. It was suggested by Aaron Pelouze (KD6FLM) that the same categories and prize money as last year be used. Motion carried.

Bob Antion (WL7RV) announced that he was going back to school and would be unable to be at either the Club Meeting or the Board Meeting for at least the next 3 months. He does not want to resign as Secretary, however will need to find someone to represent him at the Club and Board meetings. Rob volunteered to take notes at the Club meeting, however a representative will need to be at the Board Meetings. Any Volunteers??

Rob suggested that we try to establish some standards for the Zero Beat. He would like to see 12 pages consistently. There was discussion about how to get materials to publish in the newsletter. We will need to solicit individuals to write columns, so that we can provide the best newsletter possible. Maybe the committee chairs can generate a report on how their committee is doing, what kind of progress they are making, any assistance requested etc. Any takers?

Rob also suggested a New Members Packet to send to new members. Some items to be included could be:

Latest Zero Beat
New Club Roster (with them in it)
Copies of the By Laws

Rob is going to put a sample packet together and present it at the January board meeting.

The January program will be Home-brew. Everyone get those projects out and finished. Looking forward to seeing them in January.

The January Board meeting will be held at Rob Roller's home (4846 Herndon Cr.) on January 13th at 7:00pm. February will find the meeting at Greg's home.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20pm.

Respectively submitted by

Bob Antion, Club Secretary

General Membership
Meeting Dec 11, 1996

Meeting was called to order by Jeff Boyes (N0JLH) Club President.

Minutes of the November General Membership meeting were approved as published in Zero Beat.

The annual Christmas Party was held. Music was provided by a Disc Jockey. Fun was had by all (especially those learning the Macarena from Rosie (WA0MNL)).

Meeting adjourned.

Respectively Submitted by
Bob Antion, Club Secretary

El Paso County HF Roundtable

Sunday evenings just after the El Paso County RACES 7:30 PM (local) HF net, on 28.385 MHz.

Everyone is invited to check in.

VE Testing Fee Goes Up (by WB7WHT)

Beginning January 1, 1997, the PPRAA VE team, which is an ARRL/VEC team, will charge \$6.25 per person per test session. This is a 20-cent increase from 1996. There's no charge, however, if a person is only taking elements 1A or 2. Morse code exemption applicants will still be charged the \$6.25.

inside cover of this issue. If you need to know about other test sessions around the state, call the Mile High VE Team's 24-hour hotline at 303-360-7293, or look on the WWW at <http://www.rmsd.com/hamradio/exams.html>.

And of course, don't forget our classes being taught at the Tesla Society. The Novice classes began on January 7, but the Technician classes haven't started yet. So if you plan to get that Technician or Tech Plus license, contact Al Bailey AD0Z or Linda Hedges KB0RKW right away (again see the inside cover for their phone numbers). Also, don't forget to say

thanks to Frank McNally KF0WF for offering to conduct another set of classes. It's much appreciated! (See the December 1996 Q-Beat for more information on the classes.)

continue to strategize our growing section's future. According to the Section Notes in the back on the December 1996 QST, Jeff's first order of business will be to work on integrating new amateurs into the amateur radio community. Don't know yet how Jeff's work will fit in with the PPRAA, but I'm sure the PPRAA is willing to help in any way. Fortunately for the Colorado Springs area, the section Affiliated Club Coordinator already lives here and is a PPRAA member: Ron Deutsch NK0P.

For those of you that don't know Jeff, he's already been in leadership positions in the area since becoming an amateur earlier this decade. He's been on the PPRAA board of directors for two years, and has served as the ARES District 14 Emergency Coordinator. Best wishes in your new endeavor, Jeff!



Sappy Birthday!!

Our members with birthdays in January are:

KB0SHE, KB0YCP, KC5YET, KA0OYZ, KA8ZKR, KB0EXL, KB0ODP, KB0ODU, KB0POB, KF0QW, KG0XW, N0DDF, N0KIC, N0NKG, N0OPM, N0PRZ, N0PZU, N0TDS, N0UDR, N0UOD, KG9FJ, N0VAN, N0VBQ, N0VBR, N0WHR, N0WOX, N0XUE, N3EUA, N3TOK, N5ZXV, NH6ON, NX0E, W8JTD, WB0LMH, and WB5GSA.

On a related subject, there are new Novice and Technical question pools which will be used beginning July 1, 1997. You can obtain a copy of these question pools by contacting the ARRL via e-mail, the world wide web, or by phone. The new questions will include questions related to the new RF safety standards imposed by the FCC.

Remember, our test sessions are held the second Saturday of even-numbered months. You can find our more information by contacting Erik Mugele KG0XE. His phone number is on the

ARRL Leadership News (by WB7WHT)

Congratulations are due to Marshall Quiat AG0X, our Rocky Mountain Division Director, on his reelection to this term beginning this month. He won out over Gunnar Carlson AE4W by almost a 2:1 margin. Congratulations, Marshall!

And our own Jeff Ryan N0WPA has been appointed to Assistant Section Manager (ASM). As ASM Jeff will work with the Colorado Section Manager Tim Armagost WB0TUB to

Hamfest Planning Underway (by KB0REI)

The first meeting of the hamfest planning committee was held on Saturday, December 14, 1996 at the Falcon substation of the CSPD. Attendees were myself, Dennis Major KB0SXC and Rob Roller WB7WHT. The main issues discussed at the meeting were location, time, and prizes.

Location: Due to the increase in the rental fees for District 20, the swapfest will be held in a District 11 school. The two schools surveyed so far are Coronado High and Doherty High.

Time: The two weekends under consideration are Saturday, May 17th or Saturday, May 31st. Coronado High isn't available for May 17th. After discussing the schools, we created a timeline of activities and task completion leading up to the swapfest.

Prizes: It was agreed that we would offer more prizes but lower priced

items. This would generate a higher chance of winning without increasing the total cost. Two options will be offered to the membership at the January club meeting.

The next hamfest planning meeting is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, January 11, 1997, at 1000 at the Colorado Springs Police Dept Falcon Subdivision, 7850 Goddard St. Talk-in will be on 147.48 MHz. Volunteers are still needed to insure a good hamfest!

Christmas Party a Merry Party! (by WB7WHT)

Oh, what a night! We had such a good time last night that we might do it again next year! Good food, friends, music, dancing - "... one of the best parties in a long time!", one club member said.

The evening started out about 6 pm with about a half hour of socializing. The bar at the DAV was open if one wanted to indulge before dinner. Then at 6:30 the victuals were served and everyone feasted. The volunteer staff at the DAV cooked up a fine dinner of ham and roast beef, vegetables, and mashed potatoes, preceded by a dinner salad, and followed by some mighty fine chocolate cake! After a short time I was content but quite wary of the consequences of overconsumption; fortunately I was predisposed to party or polka, whichever was preferred (pardon the alliteracy)!

After the meal the mood was set. The DAV, which hosts many Christmas parties in December, already had the place decorated with a Christmas tree, streamers hung from the ceiling with care, and a mirrored, rotating ball hung from the ceiling (what do you call those things - you know, it spins slowly reflecting tiny moving spots of light on the walls and floor and makes you dizzy?) So when the music began

and the lights went down, it was real easy to get into a dancing mood!

Music was provided by a local DJ company called Complete Music. The DJ (was his name Kenny?) mixed a good variety of music - some 40's & 50's like "In the Mood", some country, a few rock tunes (Queen's "Rock This Town", for example), a few polkas, and even the "Cotton-Eyed Joe". A few folks were still hanging around even at 10 pm when the DJ turned off the tunes. We found out who can polka, swing, two-step, and we found out we even have a couple of cloggers among us!

Thanks to Renay Boyes KAØROY for doing most of the organizing and to the DAV for providing good food and a place to party. Since so many of us had a good time last night, we've already been thinking about next year.

We'll bring it up to the club at the January meeting, but what about moving the '97 party to a weekend to try to attract more people (only 42 folks came for dinner), or even getting involved with another club to host the party, kind of like the way we had a dual club Field Day with the Mountain ARC?

I do want to say thanks to Renay Boyes KAØROY for doing all she did to make the party a success. I thoroughly enjoyed myself, as did my wife, Dorothy, and everyone else that came. Thanks also to the DAV for providing the good food. Looking forward to next year!

Budget Announcement! (by WB7WHT)

If you have any items that you believe the club should include in its 1997 budget, please see me as soon as possible. I'm putting together a picture of where the club's spent money in the past and where we want to spend money in the future, and comparing that to the money we're

expected to receive this year. Maybe we can have a balanced budget! What a concept! If it works we should let our government officials in on the secret!

OM/YL January LUNCH BUNCH

The Lunch Bunch will get together for lunch and visiting Thursday, January 16st, Noon time, at the Hometown Buffet in the shops of the Bluffs 3650 Ausitn Bluffs Parkway in Colorado Springs. An invitation is extended to all of you who can join us.

Rosie Calaway, WAØMNL
471-9965

ARRL Dues Coming Up? (by WB7WHT)

Don't forget that you can give the PPRAA additional financial support by renewing your ARRL membership through the PPRAA this year. All you have to do is mail your membership check, made payable to the PPRAA instead of the ARRL, to the club's address. The PPRAA will then send in your membership renewal membership for you and the ARRL allows us to keep a small portion (\$2) of your dues as a commission. So while this doesn't increase your ARRL membership fee, it does help contribute to the club. That \$2 may seem insignificant by itself, but if many people renew it starts to add up to a nice chunk which of course goes right back to the you, the club members, or to the amateur community in some other form.

Famous Anniversary December 11

The 75th anniversary of the first shortwave transatlantic radio

transmission was December 11. Back in 1921 a Connecticut station, 1BCG, transmitted to ZZE in Scotland a very simple message, "Hearty congratulations" and a signature. The format looks remarkably like the predecessor of today's NTS format, by the way. The original frequency used was 1.35 MHz, slightly lower than today's 160m band, and located in the present day AM broadcasting band.

Club Insurance Rates Hiked (by WB7WH)

Our own club insurance premium may rise slightly next year as Albert H. Wohler's & Co. raises the minimum premium to \$325 per year. Wohler's is well-known to the amateur radio community as an insurer of amateur radio equipment. Based on a recent note in the ARRL Letter Wohler's paid out an average of \$889 on 2,700 claims filed in the past five years, mostly for lightning damage. To my knowledge the PPRAA has never submitted a claim; but then again, I've only been in the club for about 6 years now.

For those of you that don't know Jeff, he's already been in leadership positions in the area since becoming an amateur earlier this decade. He's been on the PPRAA board of directors for two years, and has served as the ARES District 14 Emergency Coordinator. Best wishes in your new endeavor, Jeff!

Emergency Calls, by David Kurth, NØUVR

I heard a ham on a local repeater the other day commenting on how the 911 operators didn't seem to know how to handle calls from hams through autopatches. I just wanted to make a few points about 911 procedures through autopatches.

A number of years ago, hams were probably the major source of emergency calls regarding traffic accidents, hazards, and other traffic problems. At the present time, the number of cell phones on the roads far outnumber amateurs with phone patch capability. So the first problem is that 911 operators will get very few calls from hams as compared to drivers with cell phones. They will sense something is different, and they will not be familiar with talking to a person through an autopatch.

The second problem is that calls through autopatches are only half duplex. Communication is possible in both directions, but NOT at the same time. Cell phone conversations are full duplex as both parties can talk and listen at the same time. On an autopatch, the 911 operator is NOT in control of the call. They cannot interrupt when the ham is transmitting, and thus both parties can become confused. To make effective use of the time, the ham has to convey his information carefully so two-way communication is maintained.

The third problem is that most all autopatches have a time-out timer. If you make your call and have to wait, or worst yet get put on hold, your chances of getting any information relayed has greatly decreased. Most repeaters use a 3 minute time-out, and it is amazing how fast 3 minutes can go by.

In light of these problems, here are my suggestions on how to make a 911 autopatch call:

(1) Don't start the call by telling the 911 operator you are a ham or amateur radio operator, or by giving your name and callsign either by spelling or phonetics. I don't think the operator cares, and they probably don't know what a "ham" or "amateur radio operator" is. I've heard hams report an accident to 911, and the call goes out on the police dispatch channel as being reported by a cell phone. By giving your name and call, you've probably wasted 15 seconds, and haven't provided any useful information about the emergency.

(2) Make your transmissions short. You are working against a time-out timer, so don't get long-winded since the 911 operator can not ask questions or get clarification if you key down and tell your whole life's story in 3 minutes.

(3) You are in control of the conversation, even if you don't want to be. You can transmit anytime you desire, and you can listen anytime you want. The 911 operator doesn't have that luxury. They also are not accustomed to a conversation they can not control. So you have to control the conversation but let the 911 operator think they're running things.

As an example, here's how I would report an accident to 911 on an autopatch:

(911): 911, what is your emergency?

(me): I'd like to report an accident at Academy and Briargate.

At this point, I'd quit transmitting and listen. If the accident has already been reported, I'm done. There is no need to go on. With all the cell phones out there, this is probably the most likely scenario. If the accident has not been reported, I go on.

The 911 operator may then ask for more details of the location, if there are injuries, the number of vehicles involved, or other information. In each case, I'd answer the question with a short response, and then un-key and listen for the next question. You should also be aware that if you hold the key down while thinking what to say next, the operator will assume you are done talking, and will start talking. Since you are still transmitting, you'll miss the information. So make your response short, and when you say the last word, UN-KEY IMMEDIATELY so the repeater has time to turn around before the 911 operator begins to talk.

If the operator wants a your name and number to contact you, give your name and home phone number. You may want to mention that you are not currently at the number. If they press the issue, then

attempt to explain you are mobile and cannot be reached by phone. The theory is that if this happens, it will be at the end of the conversation and all the critical information has been passed. If the repeater times out, the 911 operator has enough information to pass on to the police or fire dispatcher.

Also, be aware that the 146.97 autopatch will connect you with El Paso County 911 operator. Use this machine if you are not in the city of Colorado Springs. If you attempt to call in an accident within the city limits and use the 146.97 patch, you will just get transferred and have to repeat your report all over again.

If you call to report a non-emergency such as a stalled car blocking a lane of traffic or that a traffic light is broken, use the Colorado Springs Police number of 444-7000. That number is almost as easy to remember as 911, and since it is a non-emergency, you are under less pressure and can be a little more relaxed.

Most of the autopatches on repeaters have "speed dial" or shortcut numbers for police, fire, State Patrol, and sheriff. Read the information that the repeater group sends you, make note of the numbers and procedures. Keep the numbers with you or in your car so you are prepared to make a call if a situation arises. A 911 call is NOT the time to learn how to use an autopatch. It is a good idea to practice by calling your house or friend sometime to get familiar with the autopatch and your radio. You may also have a ham friend call you using the autopatch so you can get a feeling of what the 911 operator experiences.

These are my opinions, and I realize that there may be some different and better ideas out there. If you have any suggestions, get them into O-Beat so we can all learn and benefit. Just because we may be outnumbered by cell phones, it doesn't mean that we still can't provide a valuable service in emergency communications.

Dave Kurth NOUVR

Editor's Notes Bill Pierce, KDØJU

I would like to thank Bob, WL7RV, for the help in getting the board and general meeting minutes into the O-Beat. A few articles didn't make it this issue due to having November Board meeting minutes included in this issue. Also during the transfer of the editorship, I may have misplaced some of the paper articles submitted. I apologise if your article didn't make in this issue. If space permits they will be included in the February issue. One thing I did accomplish is to import the graphics to the top of the front page and the second page as I didn't particularly wish to hot wax this edition together. This increased the size of the) Beat from about 900Kb to almost 19Mb. This made any updates, such as moving words, take upto 5 minutes or more. However this has been remedied by separating the pages from the main document. Next month won't take quite so long to prepare.

Other news of note received via email:

QST de W1AW
Special Bulletin 19 ARLX019
From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT December 13, 1996
To all radio amateurs

SB SPCL ARL ARLX019

ARLX019 Transatlantic anniversary

December 11 marked the 75th anniversary of the first shortwave transatlantic radio transmission, sent from Greenwich, Connecticut, to an American amateur in Ardrossan, Scotland, in 1921 (see QST, Dec 1996, page 30, for details). The US station, IBCG, was owned by Minton Cronkhite. In Scotland, Paul Godley, 2ZE, copied a message sent by IBCG.

A commemorative W1BCG operation, using a replica of the 1921 transmitter, continues through December 15 in the vicinity of 1815 kHz in the 160-meter band (as close as practical to the original frequency, which was 1350 kHz—in the present-day standard broadcast band).

The RSGB reports that, on the other side of the Atlantic, members of the Yeovil Amateur Radio Club used restored and replica 1920s receivers this week to pick up the signal from W1BCG.

The categories for Home Brew Night will be, Professional kit and non-kit. Amateur or non Profesional kit and non-kit. If you are a electronic engineer or a bench tech. you would be considered a professional. You can even bring some program you wrote for your computer that relates to Amateur Radio. Prizes will be \$15 for first

and \$5 for second. Bring what you have made and have fun!

Aaron Pelouze KD6FLM VP

SB QST ARL ARLB102 ARLB102 FCC Delays New RF-Exposure Rules

FCC Delays New RF-Exposure Rules
Just in time for Christmas, the FCC has postponed the date for hams to comply with the new RF-exposure regulations from January 1, 1997, to January 1, 1998. The ARRL was among those requesting the delay.

The League said that the additional time was needed for the FCC to draft implementation guidelines and for amateurs to use them to comply with the regulations (released on August 1, 1996 as ET Docket 93-62).

FCC Report No. DC 96-112 announced the amendment of the rules to extend the transition period for licensees to determine compliance with the new bioeffects requirements for RF transmitters. The League obtained a copy of the report just before noon on Christmas Eve.

The time extension to January 1, 1998, will allow changes to Amateur Radio operator examinations to be made along with routine revisions between now and July 1, 1998, rather than requiring hurried special revisions. Among the reasons for requesting the extension was the desire to permit licensees to make a more orderly entrance into this new area, to allow time for information to be promulgated to hams to ensure that they have the information at their disposal to comply with the new rules, and to allow time for appropriate questions to be inserted into the question pools for the various amateur license

In Report No. DC 96-112, the FCC said it disagreed with those petitioners who suggested that the time extension "will have significant adverse effects on public

health." The entire text of Report DC 96-112 may be found on the ARRL Web at <http://www.arrl.org/fcc/dc96-112.html> (or click on What's New or RF Safety News).

+++++ CRA News for December 18, 1996 (Issue 53, Vol 3, #25) +++++

The CRA News, Electronic Edition, is a newsletter published every other week by the Colorado Repeater Association, Inc., to update its members and other interested hams on activities of the club and the operational status of its facilities and to provide information about amateur radio activities of general interest in Colorado. This newsletter is available at the following locations:

- On amateur radio packet on the CRA Information Center Bulletin Board on 144.990 MHz. Connect to WA1JHK-5 (Parker), digipeat via CRA (Conifer). It is also available on the CRA AMPRnet Access Menu on 145.385. Connect to CRA, wait for the Connected message from your TNC, then press ENTER; select the Information menu.

- On the World-Wide Web on the CRA Web Page at <URL <http://www.rmsd.com/hanradio/cra/>>.

- On other packet BBSs in Colorado -- check the CRA area or Colorado News area on your favorite BBS. If you don't find the newsletter, ask your sysop to store it when it arrives.

- To subscribe by e-mail from the Internet or AMPRnet, see the instructions below.

----- IN THIS ISSUE --

- Happy Holidays from the CRA!
- CRA Tech Team Report!
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----- CRA Tech Team Report --

1. On Friday, December 6th, Dave, WA1JHK, traveled to the club's Conifer

Mtn site to troubleshoot the link to Colorado Springs. This time Dave found that the link transmitter had no power out. (Last time, it was a problem with the receiver.) Dave removed the radio from the site and returned it to service on Sunday, December 8th. The link has been operating properly since the repair.

2. There has been a flurry of activity on 447.200, the club's 9600 band digital repeater supporting the Northeast Colorado TCP/IP Backbone. Four new stations have been allocated IP addresses. Two of these have their own Ethernet LANs.

3. The 147.225 repeater continues to operate at reduced power while we acquire a replacement power amplifier. A new Henry Radio Power Amplifier is planned for installation by the end of December.

4. The 447.150 repeater continues to operate at reduced power until we can repair the interference at our Conifer site.

Next Swapfest -- The Northern Colorado Amateur Radio Club will hold its Annual Winter Superfest hamfest and computer fair on Saturday, January 11th, 1996, at 9 a.m. at the Larimer County Fairgrounds, Railroad Ave., Loveland, CO.

Talk-in will be on 145.115 Mhz. (-600 Khz, 100.0 Hz CTCSS) and 146.520 Simplex.

- o Admission is \$3.00.
- o Sellers' tables are \$8.00 and includes one admission.
- o Commercial Exhibits, Dealers, Demonstrations and Workshops
- o Grand Prizes and Hourly Prizes
- o Snack Bar
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Please Note: You must submit a completed application form along with your check to the Treasurer for both new members as well as renewals. Thank you. PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY!